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Rec'd Aug 21 1961

August 18, 1961

The Hon. S. Symington  
Senate Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I read an article in TRUE Magazine, June 1961  
Edition pertaining to Russia's early attempts to  
launch an astronaut.

The article written by Mr. James Mills tells how  
Alex Ledonsky was killed at Kapustin Yar in 1957,  
Serenty Schibarin was killed the following February  
and in January 1959 Andrei Mitkov who was killed  
shortly after launching.

I am interested to know if this is true and has  
it been officially recorded as true by the government  
of the United States.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Leo C. Koenig

Leo C. Koenig

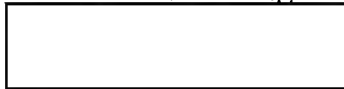


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**United States Senate**

August 21, 1961

From: Mr. Leo C. Koenig



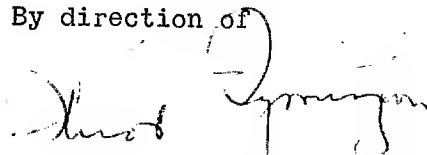
Respectfully referred to

Hon. Allen W. Dulles

Director of Central Intelligence

for such consideration as the communication  
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report  
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of  
inclosure.

By direction of

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stuart Symington".

Stuart Symington

U. S. S.


GPO 16-78867-1

61-6796/1

5 SEP 1961

BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet  
Cosmonauts

Attached for your signature is a response to  
Senator Symington with respect to a query from one  
of his constituents as to the validity of a TRUE magazine  
article identifying Soviet cosmonauts who had been killed  
during space launchings. The names are the same as  
those which had previously appeared in Drew Pearson's  
column earlier this year.

  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

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Attachment:  
Letter to Senator Symington

61-6790/1

SEP 1961

**BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet  
Cosmonauts**

Attached for your signature is a response to Senator Symington with respect to a query from one of his constituents as to the validity of a TRUE magazine article identifying Soviet cosmonauts who had been killed during space launchings. The names are the same as those which had previously appeared in Drew Pearson's column earlier this year.



**HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence**

**Attachment:  
Letter to Senator Symington**

OSI/OAD/[ ]ld/[ ](5 Sep 61)

**Distribution:**

2 - Addressee	1 - DDCI	1 - DD/I	1 - Exec Reg.
2 - OAD/SI	1 - SVE/GMD	1 - GMD/SI	1 - Leg Cnsl

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OSI/OAD/[redacted]ld/[redacted]  
 Distribution: 2 - Addressee STAT  
 1 - DCI 1 - Leg Cnl  
 1 - DDCI 1 - DAD/P  
 1 - DD/I 2 - SVB/GMD  
 1 - Exec Reg. *u/basis*  
 2 9 OAD/SI 1 - GMD/SI  
*Enclosure*

Honorable Stuart Symington  
 United States Senate  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Symington:

With reference to the query from your constituent, Mr. Keenig, we have no additional information beyond that furnished to the Space and Astronautics Committee early in May. We continue to believe that the Soviets attempted no manned space launches prior to the Gagarin flight.

The information in the article alluded to by Mr. Keenig is similar to information in articles by Jack Anderson and Drew Pearson during April and May of this year. All these articles appear to stem from information released by the Italian News Agency, Continentale, in December 1959. We have no reason to believe any of them to be valid.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: Letter to Senator Symington  
 from Mr. Leo C. Koenig

C. F. Cabell  
 General, USAF  
 Acting Director

CONCURRENCES:

[redacted]  
 Assistant Director/SI  
 5 SEP 1961

[redacted]  
*Acting* Deputy Director/Intelligence

SEP 7 1961

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UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence	<i>DL</i>	<i>7 Lmr</i>
2	Legislative Counsel <sup>221</sup> East	<i>JD/s</i>	8 Sep 61
3	Inspector General 231 Admin	<i>LDK</i>	<i>8 Sep</i>
4	Acting Director of Central Intelligence <sup>Rec'd 9-11-61</sup>	<i>CPC/kpm</i>	<i>9/12/61</i>
5			
6			

<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE

Remarks: To A/DCI :

This entire matter was reviewed again in OSI and [ ] indicated that Pete Scoville thought it better to simply furnish Senator Symington with the facts without suggesting a draft response to the constituent. OSI has carefully considered whether or not the position expressed is classified and they believe it is not.

John S. Warner

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
AD/SI 145 Barton Hall [ ] 5	SEP 1961

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000700190047-6

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	<div>OSI</div>		
2	145 Barton		
3			
4			
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p>Per our telephone conversation of this afternoon. Please make letter for General Cabell's signature as Acting.</p> <div>John S. Warner</div>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
OGC/LC - 221 East			1 Sept 61
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		INITIALS	DATE	
1	Deputy Director/Intelligence		<i>RA, Jr/m</i>	AUG 28 1961	
2	Legislative Counsel.		<i>JS</i>	29 Aug	
3	<i>29 231 Admin</i>		<i>LSH</i>	29 Aug	
4	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence		<i>W</i>		
5	<del>Director of Central Intelligence</del>				
5	<i>Mr. Warner</i>				
6	<i>(Leg. Counsel)</i>				
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
3	APPROVAL	DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
1-2	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION		4	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <i>(4) to (5) : For revision.</i> <del><i>5-6 Replied per our telephone conversation and letter to Sen. Symington request for your signature.</i></del>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENATOR					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
AD/SI 145 Barton Hall					

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